



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Request to Accept Grant Funds for Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

Move to accept the grant funds awarded

BACKGROUND:

The Deschutes Board of County Commissioners established a Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee in May of 2023. The first committee meeting took place on June 26, 2023. The committee has been meeting regularly since June and has established depredation compensation rates per the requirements of the statewide program as well as received expert advise on preventative measures that have been successfully implemented in other counties in the state.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture opens a grant opportunity once a year. Counties who have established Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committees are eligible to apply for grant funding. There are three categories of grant funds:

Category 1 - Grant funds requested for compensation for death or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024.

Category 2 - Grant funds requested for livestock and working dogs that are missing due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024.

Category 3 - Grant funds requested to implement livestock management activities and nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques to limit/prevent interactions between wolves and livestock or working dogs from March 22, 2024, through January 31, 2025.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has confirmed one wolf depredation in Deschutes County on Ashanti Samuels' Long Hollow Ranch. Additionally, Mr. Samuels provided documentation attesting to 6 missing livestock within Deschutes County.

The committee also applied for funds to use for educational and outreach to other Deschutes County producers (Ranch and Livestock Owners and Managers) and additional preventative measures for Central Oregon producers to be determined.

Grant Funds awarded include:

Category 1:

- \$1,935 (one confirmed depredation of a yearling)
 - Category 1 was awarded at 100% of requested amount

Category 2:

- \$2685.75
 - Category 2 was awarded at 50% of requested amount

Category 3:

- \$28,000
 - Category 3 was awarded at 40% of requested amount
 - Committee is recommending that \$20,000 be distributed to Ashanti Samuels to continue his preventative measure practices on his ranch.
 - Committee is recommending that \$8,000 be held in the committee fund to use throughout the year for educational workshops and future preventative measure requests from Deschutes County producers.

Budget Impact:

If awarded, this grant would result in increased revenues by \$32,620.75. Grant revenue is expected to be received in FY '24. Revenue is anticipated to be passed through to grant recipients before January 2025.

ATTENDANCE:

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager